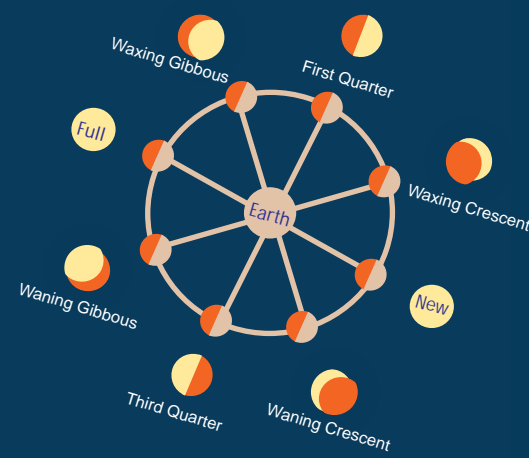


The Hunter's

MOON



This November 5th, the full "hunter's" moon will brighten the evening sky and look humongous. With any luck you may be sitting around an evening campfire watching it. With even more luck, you may have been out hunting all day and brought food home for the table. Yes, fall is the traditional beginning of hunting season and you too can participate in this exciting outdoor activity.



Big Game hunting includes deer, elk, and bear. *Small Game* hunting includes rabbit, hare, squirrel, pheasant, ruffed grouse, woodcock, quail, woodchuck, crow, skunk, coyote, and waterfowl. Now that would make one big Thanksgiving dinner! I think I'd leave a few of those critters off the menu.

Since hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities around, Governor Granholm signed a bill this year to lower the legal age to buy a hunting license. Those of you 10 years old can give hunting a try. You can either take a hunter education course and purchase a license or try hunting with a licensed adult (21 years or older) and obtain an Apprentice license. For more information about hunting and hunter education check the DNR Web site (www.michigan.gov/dnr) and talk to your parents.

So this fall, why not try something new and exciting? Join the millions of sportsmen and sportswomen who love to take to the fields and forests in pursuit of wild game. It is sure to promise you exercise, heart-pounding excitement, a new knowledge of our natural world, and maybe even a delicious dinner!

What About All of Those Colors



When those leaves "fall" from the trees, there is a good reason. Deciduous trees, those with broad leaves we sometimes call hardwoods, go dormant each winter. The tree shuts down and simply doesn't need the leaves any more. Leaves are actually food factories that help make "food" or energy for trees so they can grow all spring and

summer. But the factories close for the winter months and this process starts when days grow shorter. Chemicals in the leaves change and bright colors are the result. Different kinds of trees turn different colors and where more kinds of deciduous trees exist, the more remarkable the diversity of shades and color.



ONCE IN A BLUE MOON...

Is a common way of saying not very often. But what exactly is a Blue Moon? According to the popular definition, it is the second full moon to occur in a single calendar month.

As you may know, full moons occur once a month. The average interval between full moons is 29.5 days, while the length of the average month is 30.5 days. This makes it very unlikely that any given month will contain two full moons, though it does sometimes happen.

On average, there will be 41 months that have two full moons in every century, so you could say that once in a blue moon actually means once every two-and-a-half years.

In Michigan, we'll have a full moon May 2, 2007, and a blue moon May 31, 2007. Keep your eyes peeled!

Did You Know

Although archery probably dates to the Stone Age (around 20,000 BP*), the earliest people known to have used bows and arrows were the ancient Egyptians, who adopted archery at least 5,000 years ago for purposes of hunting and warfare.

*BP - Replaces BC and denotes Before Present

Archery

Is On Target

Kids all over America are learning a skill that has been around for thousands of years. They are taking up archery thanks to a new program called Archery in the Schools. Archery is a sport that doesn't require size, strength or speed. You don't even have to be great at math or science. What it *does* require is concentration and focus.

There is nothing like pulling back a bow string, letting the arrow fly, and watching it hit the target.

Whether your favorite all-time archer is Robin Hood or Legolas (Lord of the Rings), you too can participate in this fun sport. You may even be able to do it at your school!

Currently 68 Michigan schools teach the Archery in the Schools program in physical education classes. That's right! Part of "Gym" class. What a great idea. Ask your teachers if they would like information about how your school can get involved. They can check out information on our Web site at: www.michigan.gov/dnrarchery or contact Mary Emmons at 517-241-9477.



I'll bet you've heard these "sayings" before, all originating from the world of archery:

point blank, high strung, straight as an arrow, bolt upright, bolt from the blue, wide of the mark.

Preparing for Winter

Why do birds fly south for the winter? If you were to ask 100 Michiganders that question, more than 90 would probably reply "because it is cold." They would also look at you like you were from Mars. I mean, what a dumb question right? Well, maybe not! Most people assume birds fly south because it gets cold but what about all the kinds of birds that stick around? Why don't chick-a-dees fly south or cardinals or nuthatches? Don't they get cold too?

Birds that fly south do so not because they need to stay warm. They fly south if the food they eat becomes difficult to find. A bird that consumes lots of insects or worms (like the robin) is going to have a much harder time finding them when the ground freezes. It is a matter of diet not temperature.

Nearly all Michigan wildlife seem to do one of three things each fall to prepare for winter. Many will migrate to warmer temperatures where food will be easier to find like many birds, bats, and butterflies.

Others will hibernate or sleep most of the winter away. Woodchucks, ground squirrels, some jumping mice, and some kinds of bats are "true" hibernators while other mammals like bears and skunks do have longer and "stranger" sleeping patterns.

Many types of Michigan wildlife just "tough it out." They adapt to the colder temperatures, eat and behave a bit differently. Deer, coyotes, wolves, and elk are a few examples of these.

You will also soon prepare for winter by adding warmer coats, boots, and other clothing.

Many people poke around their house and find ways to make it warmer. Some people even migrate to Florida until the spring. And while most of us would love to hibernate right through the winter months, we will tough it out like the rest of Michigan's wildlife.



Just because summer is over, there is no reason to put away those fishing poles! The fall is a great time to fish. Think of it... no bugs...no heat...and beautiful colors lining Michigan's lakes, rivers and streams! Here are some fall fishing favorites and handy tips!

YELLOW PERCH: Perch fishing picks up in September/October off Great Lakes piers. Most anglers use minnows or wigglers. Good perch fishing is tough to find in inland lakes, but it also can turn on in the fall.

BASS: Inland lake fishing for both largemouth and smallmouth bass is excellent in the fall. Not many people take advantage of this, but these fish are getting ready for the winter and are on a feeding frenzy in October.

NORTHERN PIKE/MUSKY: Like bass, pike and musky are feeding heavily in the fall, getting ready for winter. Some of the best inland lake fishing for pike and musky is in September/October, trolling crank-baits or spoons.

PANFISH: Bluegill, crappie, sunfish, etc. all can be caught into the fall months. Standard gear of worms, crickets and minnows work well with slip bobbers (but this time of year you have to search to find the right depth).

SALMON/STEELHEAD: The most obvious/well-known fishing in the fall is for salmon and steelhead. Chinook and coho salmon move into Great Lakes tributaries en masse from August-October, and steelhead fishing is excellent from late September through November.